



Telecommunications for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, Inc.

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EX PARTE

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, MB Docket No. 05-311

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI), I am writing to urge the Commission to support policy that will give deaf and hard of hearing consumers true choice among broadband video service providers and enable competition among them that will, in turn, yield lower prices for video services. Adopting the rules in this proceeding will accomplish the goal of encouraging video competition and broadband deployment.

Action by the FCC will spur competition between new competitors, such as telephone and power companies, and incumbent cable companies by streamlining federal regulations for competitive video service providers. More importantly, it will enable deaf and hard of hearing consumers to receive the most advanced television programming services – including High Definition video, video-on-demand, and interactive programming and services critical to the disability community from competitive providers.

Consumers also need increased access to state-of-the-art broadband networks that will allow them to function more effectively in the workforce and participate more fully in our society. The deaf and hard of hearing community is excited about

the promise of new technologies that for many disabled Americans, promise to be enabling technologies. These advances hold promises of new opportunity for disabled Americans that may allow them to participate fully in life. Applications from video relay for interpreting services to telemedicine hold great potential to improve the quality of life for millions of Americans with disabilities or chronic health conditions. Therefore, any delay that postpones these opportunities should be eliminated.

TDI thanks the Commission for the opportunity to comment on this important matter and urge you to act now to address the problems with the current local franchising process in order to speed new entry into the video distribution market and spur on increased broadband deployment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claude L. Stout". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Claude L. Stout
Executive Director
Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.